

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 29, 2005, has been noted and its contents carefully studied.

Acknowledgement of the claim for priority has been noted. Applicant is attending to obtaining a certified copy of the priority document for filing.

In light of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration of the Rejection under 35 USC §102, §103 and the objection to the specification courteously is requested.

Initially, it is noted that a substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is appended hereto. The substitute specification filed herewith contains no new matter.

With respect to the objections to claims 14-24, these claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner by replacing the term "including" by "wherein", and by making additional appropriate corrections. Claim 18 has been amended to depend from Claim 13. As to Claims 16, 18 and 19, they have been amended to refer to the ranges as numerals.

Turning now to the claim rejection under 35 USC §112, the alternative narrower limitations set forth in those claims have been canceled and now appear in the form of new Claims 25-30. The objection to the use of the term "such as", "particularly", or "in particular" has also been addressed with respect to Claims 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Accordingly, it is believed that sufficient reasons are provided by the noted amendments to enable the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the claims and the 35 USC §112 rejection thereof.

In addition to the foregoing amendments, it is noted that new Claim 31 is being added which clarifies certain features of the invention, including the feature of the coating as

being formed from a plurality of porous particles having pores on the surface thereof with the particles arranged to have pores formed between the particles and being held together by a binder. The pores between the particles are of a size sufficient to spread and absorb on the surfaces of the particles defining the pores between the particles, the mobile remnants of foodstuffs. The pores on the particles themselves are of sufficient size to function as an oxygen reservoir for maximizing decomposition, whereby the decomposition does not exclusively depend on oxygen supply from the surface and sides, and wherein a sealing of the surface of the coating by large amounts of foodstuff does not lead to a blocking of decomposition within the entire layer or structure of the coating.

Claim 31 more clearly brings out certain features of the invention as stated in the Brief Summary of the Invention wherein Applicants have provided an improved structure of the coating to ensure a sufficient contact between the remnants of foodstuffs and also a sufficient supply of oxygen.

This is made possible as defined in Claim 31 by providing special hollow spaces of which at least one kind functions by spreading/absorbing the mobile remnants of foodstuffs, and at least one other kind functions as an oxygen reservoir, and of size into which the remnants of foodstuffs cannot enter. In this manner, the surface on which thermal or oxidative decomposition occurs is maximized since oxygen is permanently present in the layer itself and decomposition does not depend on oxygen supply from the surface and the sides.

The invention as defined in Claim 13 also provides a structure, which is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. More specifically, a careful reading of Claim 13 makes clearly evident that the invention is a coating having a

structure formed from a plurality of porous particles having pores therein and a binder, with the pores in the porous particles in the structure not having a solid or liquid secondary phase therein. More specifically, by being recited in this manner this provides that the pores in the porous particles within the structure can function as an oxygen reservoir to achieve the afore-discussed improvement.

Turning now to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102 and/or §103, it is respectfully urged that the claims are not anticipated by or made obvious from the cited references, as will become more clearly evident from the following detailed discussion of these references presented herein for the Examiner's kind consideration.

U.S. Patent No. 3,888,790 to Chay

U.S. Patent No. 3,888,790 to Chay (hereinafter "Chay") discloses an article having a catalytic porcelain coating prepared by blending a ceramic porous, catalytic fired composition containing 40-80% by weight of *in-situ* formed braunite. The coating is applied to an article and dried and then heated to prepare a catalytic surface in self-cleaning ovens and in emission controlled devices used for oxidation of vapors.

The ceramic catalyst is porous in the way that most catalysts are porous to allow the catalytic function to occur. It is designed to adsorb food stains on the surface and remove them on heating. (Column 4, lines 52-58). In this regard, it is noted that Chay specifically discloses the fact that food stains are adsorbed, and not absorbed into the structure of the coating. Moreover, Chay is silent with respect to the feature of Claim 13 wherein the pores are defined as being in the porous particles, not as part of the porous ceramic

catalyst, and in which the pores in the porous particles in the structure do not have a solid or liquid secondary phase therein.

Moreover, the features of Claim 31 are clearly not taught or suggested by Chay. More specifically, Claim 31 provides two types of pores, those on the particles themselves, which actually do not allow foodstuffs thereinto, but serve as an oxygen reservoir, and pores created between the particles as a result of the structure thereof which allows the foodstuffs to penetrate into the layer of the coating to maximize absorption. The pores of the particles provide a supply of oxygen from inside the coating to result in a coating, which lasts much longer and more efficiently provides a self-cleaning function.

U.S. Patent No. 3,993,597 to Stiles

U.S. Patent No. 3,993,597 to Stiles (hereinafter "Stiles") like Chay also teaches a catalyst composition for coating surfaces of cooking devices exposed to cooking residues. While there is a discussion of preferred surface areas for the catalytic metal oxides, Stiles is silent with respect to the specific features previously discussed relative to porosity both as to Claim 13 in which the pores in the porous particles do not have a solid or liquid secondary phase therein and as in Claim 31 in which two different types of pores are provided, one as a oxygen supply within the structure of the coating and the other to maximize penetration of the foodstuffs into the coating.

Other features of the dependent claims set forth how the porous structure is achieved in a manner, which also is not anticipated or made obvious from the cited references.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, Stiles standing alone or in combination with the afore-discussed Chay reference fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

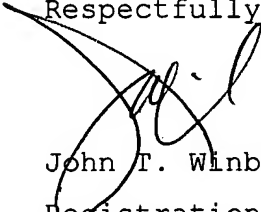
If the Examiner has any questions or further objections regarding the claims, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Please note, the enclosed Supplemental Application Data Sheet has been corrected to provide additional attorney contacts, add art unit and to combine Foreign Priority Information which has been previously submitted.

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Name of Attorney Signing

Respectfully submitted



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